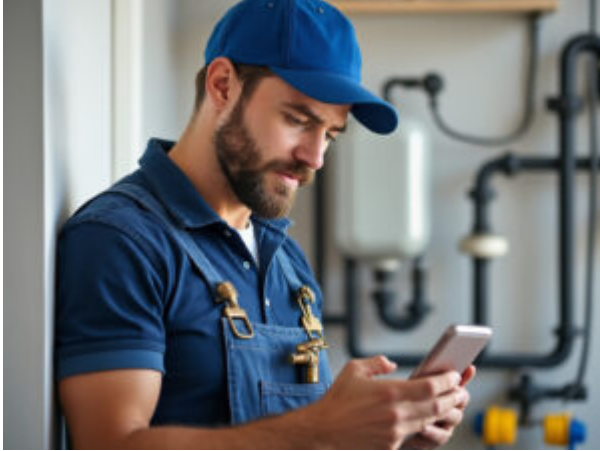


The Plumbing Code: Secrets to Legally Awesome Plumbing

written by Vicky Barry | September 1, 2024



Welcome back, my plumbing apprentice! Today, we're diving into the world of plumbing code, the unsung heroes of our trade. (yes, I've said that out loud) Think of codes as the script to the plumbing blockbuster you're starring in. Ignore them, and you're not just risking your job; you're setting yourself for failure. Some plumbers tried to circumvent the code, but the ones that survived the longest tend to embrace the code and become the building inspector's friend. As a result, they get more jobs, they get less stress, and they make more money. This is part of the [10 Essential Plumbing Tips Every Apprentice Must Know](#). Check it out.

Why Plumbing Codes Matter

Plumbing isn't just about making water flow where it should. It's about safety, health, and ensuring that your work stands the test of time and inspectors. Codes are the rules that keep our work from becoming the next episode of "When Plumbers Go Wrong." They're like the GPS for your plumbing journey, guiding you through the maze of pipes, fixtures, and vents.

The Plumbing Code Commandments

- 1. Know Your Local Codes:** Just like dialects change from town to town, so do plumbing codes. What's kosher in Kansas might get you a citation in California. Always start with local regulations. They're your bread and butter.
- 2. Pipe Sizing:** Ever heard of the Goldilocks principle? Your pipes need to be just right. Too small, and you're looking at clogs and pressure issues. Too big, and you're wasting materials and money. Codes help you find that sweet spot.
- 3. Venting:** Venting isn't just about letting air in; it's about preventing a vacuum that could suck water out of traps, leading to sewer gas in your client's home. Codes dictate how and where these vents should go, ensuring your work doesn't turn into a stinky situation.

4. **Fixture Spacing:** There's an art to where you place your toilets, sinks, and showers. Codes ensure there's enough space for maintenance, usage, and that your bathroom doesn't look like it was designed by someone who's never seen a bathroom before.
5. **Materials:** Not all pipes are created equal. Codes tell you what materials are safe for what purposes. PVC in one place might be a no-go in another due to temperature or chemical exposure.

The Plumbing Code Chronicles

Imagine you're building a castle, but instead of swords and dragons, you're dealing with pipes and permits. Your codes are your blueprint, ensuring your castle doesn't crumble under the weight of legal scrutiny or actual water pressure. Here's how to navigate them:

- **Study Regularly:** Like any good story, codes have sequels and updates. Keep up with them. There are courses, seminars, and online resources. Make it a habit.
- **Ask Questions:** If something in the code confuses you, ask. Whether it's a senior plumber, a code official, or an online forum, don't let confusion lead to violation.
- **Document Everything:** Keep records of your work. If you're ever questioned, you want to pull out your "code compliance" folder faster than a magician pulls a rabbit from a hat.
- **The Code as Your Ally:** Use codes to your advantage. When a client asks for something that's not up to code, you're not just saying no; you're protecting them from future headaches.

The Apprentice's Code

Remember, apprentice, every code you learn is a tool in your belt. They're not there to stifle your creativity but to channel it into safe, effective, and legal plumbing solutions. When you master the codes, you're not just a plumber; you're a plumbing knight, sworn to protect homes from the dark forces of leaks, floods, and health hazards.

So, embrace the codes. Study them like you would the latest action flick. Because in the world of plumbing, knowing your codes isn't just about passing inspections; it's about crafting a legacy of work that stands firm against time, tide, and the occasional overzealous inspector.

Stay tuned for more adventures in the plumbing realm, where every turn of the wrench could be a turn in your epic saga. Until next time, keep your codes close and your pipes closer!

Plumbing Code References:

- [International Plumbing Code](#) (IPC) – Your bible for plumbing codes.
- [National Standard Plumbing Code](#) (NSPC) – Another key text in your plumbing library.

[Your Awesome Business Running on the Easiest CRM](#)

written by Vicky Barry | September 1, 2024



Choosing a Easy Customer Relationship Management (Easy CRM) system can feel overwhelming, especially if you were looking for the easiest CRM. There are too many. Options, unnecessary features, and hard to understand interfaces. but what if there was a CRM out there that focuses on simplicity and being the easiest CRM to use? let's dive in

The Easiest CRM in the World Should Do These 10 things

Customer relationship management (CRM) systems are essential tools for businesses looking to streamline their operations, enhance customer interactions, and drive sales. However, the effectiveness of a CRM heavily depends on its ease of use and the features it offers. In this post, we'll explore the top 10 features that make a CRM system user-friendly and effective, along with why each feature is crucial for your business.

but before I get into the top 10, the CRM you choose should just be "stupid simple". Almost to the point where the software is obvious to use and requires little or no training. What you're looking for is software that does not require complex tutorials.

1. The Easiest CRM must have an Intuitive User Interface (UI)

- **Why It Matters:** An intuitive UI ensures that users can navigate the CRM without extensive training, increasing adoption rates across your team.
- **Key Benefit:** Reduces the learning curve and enhances productivity.

2. The Easiest CRM Must Make Managing Customers the Highest Priority

- **Essential Features:** Ability to easily add, edit, and categorize contacts. Integration with email and social media for complete communication tracking.
- **Business Impact:** Ensures that all customer information is centralized and accessible.

3. An Easy CRM Should Have Automation of Daily Tasks

- **What to Look For:** Features like automatic data entry, lead scoring, and alerts for follow-ups.
- **Advantage:** Frees up time for your team to focus on more strategic activities.

4. An Easy CRM would have Seamless Integration Capabilities

- **Integration Essentials:** Should integrate smoothly with existing systems like email, calendars, and other business tools.
- **Why It's Important:** Streamlines workflows and data consistency across platforms.

5. The Easiest CRM would be Mobile Accessibility

- **Must-Have:** A mobile-friendly CRM or a dedicated app.
- **Key Takeaway:** Allows your team to access information on-the-go and update data in real-time.

6. Customization Options

- **Why Customize?:** Every business has unique needs, and a customizable CRM can adapt to your specific operational requirements.
- **Benefits:** Tailors the system to enhance user experience and efficiency.

7. Robust Security Features

- **Security Needs:** Encryption, data backup, and user access controls.
- **Importance:** Protects sensitive customer information and complies with regulations.

8. Excellent Customer Support

- **What to Expect:** Quick response times and multiple support channels like chat, email, and phone.
- **Why It Matters:** Ensures any issues are promptly resolved, reducing downtime.

9. The Best CRM would be Future Proof, and Scale as you grow.

- **Growth Readiness:** The CRM should grow with your business, accommodating more users and data over time.
- **Advantage:** Supports business growth without the need for frequent system changes.

10. An Easy CRM Must Powerful Features to Help You Grow.

- **Features:** a CRM is not just a customer retention management system. It's also used for [invoicing](#), creating [websites](#), blogging, and social media, creating [task lists](#), and making phone calls. In other words, easiest CRM would help you run all aspects of your business.
- **Advantage:** provide you with a single login to do all the things you need to do in your business. This way, you don't have to jump from tool to tool to your day-to-day operation

FAQ Section

Q: How does CRM integration improve customer service? A: CRM integration helps streamline all customer interactions, ensuring that all information is up-to-date and accessible, leading to more personalized and efficient service.

Q: Can CRM systems improve customer retention? A: Yes, by maintaining detailed records of customer preferences and interactions, CRMs help businesses tailor their offerings and communications to increase customer satisfaction and loyalty.

Q: What is the best way to ensure CRM adoption across a company? A: Choose a

CRM with an intuitive interface, provide comprehensive training, and select a system that integrates seamlessly with the tools your team already uses.

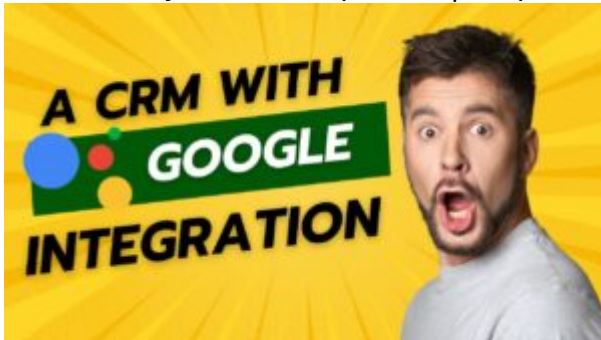
Only one Easy CRM Choice in our Eyes

When we started selling lane, we recognized that crafting a CRM system that is simple yet powerful requires understanding the essential features that meet both user and business needs. By ensuring our CRM software includes these 10 features, we set the foundation for enhanced productivity, better customer relationships, and ultimately, increased profitability for our customers.

New Layer CRM Simplified
[Try for Free](#) The Easiest CRM
For Small Business

[How a CRM with Google Calendar Makes You Money](#)

written by Jude Campbell | September 1, 2024



The good news? CRM platforms like Selling Lane can seamlessly integrate with Google Calendar. Setting it up is usually a breeze, and many platforms offer free trials so you can test-drive the system before committing.

[Stop The Mix-Ups! How To Organize Your Customer's Like A Pro](#)

written by Jude Campbell | September 1, 2024



No More Mix-Ups: Imagine calling Mrs. Johnson for a roof repair, only to find out she wanted the basement flooded (hopefully not!). Clean info means you reach the right person, every time. No wasted time, just happy customers.

[Small Business Struggles: Is a CRM Transformation needed?](#)

written by Vicky Barry | September 1, 2024



Introduction to CRM Transformation

The road to small business and startup success is paved with challenges. Limited resources, fierce competition, and the constant juggling act of managing daily operations can feel overwhelming. The good news? There's a powerful tool that can simplify your workflows, boost efficiency, and propel your business forward: Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software. Let's delve into the most common struggles small businesses and startups face and explore how a CRM transformation can be your key to growth.

Scattered Customer Data: From Chaos to Clarity

Managing customer information with a hodgepodge of spreadsheets, sticky notes, and overflowing inboxes is a recipe for lost opportunities. Disorganization makes it tough to keep track of leads, follow-ups, and customer preferences, hindering sales and service.

CRM Transformation: A CRM becomes your central hub for all customer data.

Contact information, interaction history, purchase patterns – everything is organized and easily accessible. You'll have a clear, 360-degree view of each customer, empowering your team to build stronger relationships and drive revenue.

Time-Sucking Processes: Reclaim Your Hours with a CRM Transformation

Small business owners and startup teams wear many hats, making time incredibly valuable. Repetitive, manual tasks like lead follow-up, appointment scheduling, and invoicing eat away at precious hours.

CRM Transformation: CRM's automation capabilities are a game-changer. Automate email campaigns, lead nurturing, client reminders, invoice generation, and repetitive tasks. This frees up time for high-value activities like strategizing, building relationships, and closing deals.

Limited Visibility: The Power of Data-Driven Insights

Intuition plays a role in business, but data-driven decisions are crucial for long-term success. Without clear visibility into sales pipelines, customer trends, and team performance, growth can be elusive.

CRM Transformation: CRM analytics and reporting features shine a light on your business. Track sales progress, conversion rates, customer behavior, and key performance indicators. These insights help you identify areas for improvement, optimize processes, and make strategic decisions that drive growth.

Customer Experience: Your Competitive Edge

In today's crowded marketplace, delivering exceptional customer experiences is essential. Customers want to feel valued, understood, and promptly served. A positive customer experience fosters loyalty and repeat business.

CRM Transformation: A CRM allows you to personalize interactions. Access customer preferences, past orders, and communication history instantly. This personalized approach delights customers, builds brand advocates, and gives you a competitive advantage.

Evolving Market: Agility is Key with a CRM Transformation got the right key

Staying ahead in a fast-paced business landscape requires agility. Adapting to market trends, competitor moves, and technological advancements is vital for small businesses and startups.

CRM Transformation: CRMs help you remain agile with a treasure trove of

customer data. Analyze buying patterns, identify market shifts, and pinpoint opportunities. This data-backed knowledge allows you to adapt offerings, marketing, and strategies, ensuring your business stays ahead of the curve.

Conclusion

The challenges faced by small businesses and startups necessitate smart solutions. A CRM transformation addresses these core challenges by streamlining operations, maximizing resources, and unlocking actionable insights. By centralizing customer data, automating tasks, and empowering data-driven decision-making, a CRM helps your business thrive.

If you're ready to take your small business or startup to the next level, a CRM transformation is well worth exploring. **Reach out to sellinglane.com to discover how we can guide your transformation and supercharge your growth.**

[10X Your Invoices with Venmo's Link-To-Pay](#)

written by Vicky Barry | September 1, 2024



Most of you are familiar with Venmo's awesome QR code system for payment, but I searched the web recently looking for a way to "link-to-pay" for my Venmo account, to my surprise, there was quite a bit of miss-information.

[How to Use CRM Software to Increase Sales](#)

written by Jude Campbell | September 1, 2024



CRM software is not just a tool; it's a game-changer for sales teams and solo business owners alike. It's the engine behind sales strategy, customer engagement, increase sales and ultimately revenue growth. Here's an expanded look at how CRM software, like Selling Lane (shameless plug), can transform your sales process and performance outcomes.

OK, here they are, so you don't have to read the whole post,

1. **Understand and focus on customers specific needs**
2. **Help you upsell and cross-sell with ease.**
3. **Nurture leads into raving fans.**

Study Your Customer to Increase Sales Perspective

CRM software empowers you to understand your customers like never before in human history. By analyzing purchase history, communication logs, and support tickets, you'll reveal hidden insights into customer behavior and preferences. This data helps you craft personalized messages and offers that resonate, leading to increased conversion rates and more personalized relationships.

Here are some specific examples of how you can use CRM software to understand your customers better:

- **Identify your most profitable customers.** By analyzing purchase history data, you can identify the customers who are spending the most money with you. This information can help you focus your marketing and sales efforts on these customers.
- **Segment your customers based on their interests.** By analyzing communication log and support ticket data, you can segment your customers based on their interests and needs. This allows you to send targeted marketing messages and offers that are more likely to be relevant to each customer. Using selling lanes tag system is the easiest way to add a customer to a specific segment, and it even allows you to place the same customer in multiple segments. Example: auction buyer, might also be a seller. A Sufi book reader might also enjoy fantasy.
- **Identify customer pain points.** By analyzing support ticket data and complaints, you can identify the common problems that your customers are facing. This information can help you improve your products and services

and reduce customer churn. For example, if a software company gets lots of calls to the support line asking for password reset, you might consider adding a reset my password button, so they can reset their own password. If a restaurant gets lots of complaints about parking, they might consider adding Valet parking or expanding their lot size.

- **Predict customer behavior.** By analyzing customer data, you can predict customer behavior. This information can help you personalize your marketing and sales efforts and improve your customer experience. For example, if you notice that customers are buying certain products during the holidays you can both stock up early and market early to increase sales. If a new car dealer has 500 customers out on three year leases, they can have their business development team call customers early and try to get them to trade ahead of schedule.

CRM software gives you the tools you need to understand your customers better and build stronger relationships with them. With CRM, you can:

- **Get a 360-degree view of your customers.** CRM software integrates with all of your customer-facing systems, so you can see all of your customer interactions in one place.
- **Automate tasks.** CRM software automates many of the time-consuming tasks associated with customer relationship management, so you can focus on building relationships with your customers.
- **Collaborate with your team.** CRM software makes it easy to share customer data and collaborate with your team to provide the best possible customer service.

If you're serious about understanding your customers and building stronger relationships with them, then Selling Lane's CRM software might be the right solution for you.

Upsell and Cross-selling Effectively

Upselling and cross-selling are two of the most effective ways to increase sales and grow your business. When you upsell, you encourage customers to purchase a higher-priced or upgraded version of the product they're already interested in. When you cross-sell, you encourage customers to purchase complementary products or services.

CRM software can help you upsell and cross-sell more effectively by tracking customer purchases and allowing you to identify opportunities for upselling and cross-selling. With Selling Lane's Menu Sales System, you can take this one step further by creating custom menus that offer complementary products and upgrades to your customers.

Here are a few ways to use [Selling Lane's Menu Selling System](#) to upsell effortlessly:



- **Create menus for different customer segments.** By segmenting your customers based on their purchase history and preferences, you can create custom menus that offer them the most relevant products and upgrades. For example, you could create a menu for customers who have recently purchased a new phone, offering them complementary accessories such as cases, chargers, and screen protectors.
- **Offer discounts and promotions on upgrades and complementary products.** Offering discounts and promotions can make it more attractive for customers to upgrade or purchase complementary products. For example, you could offer a 10% discount on a new case to customers who purchase a new phone.
- **Use images and videos to showcase your products and upgrades.** Images and videos can help customers visualize how your products and upgrades can benefit them. For example, you could include images of different phone cases on your menu, so customers can see how they look on different phone models.
- **Make it easy for customers to upsell and cross-sell themselves.** Selling Lane's Menu Selling System makes it easy for customers to upsell and cross-sell themselves. When customers are viewing a product, they'll see a list of complementary products and upgrades that they may be interested in. Customers can simply add these products to their cart with a single click.

Here are 3 upsell examples, from three different industry types

- **Clothing Upsell:** Offer a discount on a second pair of jeans or a belt to customers who purchase a t-shirt.
- **Electronics Upsell:** Offer a discount on a laptop sleeve or carrying case to customers who purchase a laptop.
- **Food and beverage Upsell:** Offer a discount on a milkshake or dessert to customers who purchase a burger and fries.

How can use CRM software to nurture your leads and increase sales:

- **Create a sales pipeline.** A sales pipeline is a visualization of the different stages that a lead goes through before they become a customer. CRM software can help you to create and manage your sales pipeline, so that you can track the progress of each lead and identify opportunities for nurturing.
- **Send targeted email campaigns.** CRM software allows you to send targeted email campaigns to your leads based on their interests and needs. For

example, you could send a different email campaign to leads who have visited your website but haven't downloaded a white paper, and leads who have downloaded a white paper but haven't signed up for a free trial.

- **Automate follow-up tasks.** CRM software can automate many of the follow-up tasks involved in lead nurturing, such as sending emails and scheduling phone calls. This ensures that your leads are always being nurtured, even when you're busy with other tasks.
- **Use drip marketing campaigns.** Drip marketing campaigns are a type of email marketing campaign that sends out a series of emails to leads over a period of time. CRM software can help you to create and manage drip marketing campaigns, so that you can nurture your leads at their own pace.
- **Provide valuable content.** One of the best ways to nurture your leads is to provide them with valuable content, such as blog posts, e-books, and webinars. CRM software can help you to track which leads have consumed your content, so that you can target them with more relevant messages and offers in the future.

5 Killer Features Your Business Software Must Have

written by Jude Campbell | September 1, 2024



In the sprawling digital jungle of startups, great business software is the trusty machete that clears the path to your organization's success. It's the Marvin Gaye of the business world, making operations smoother than a love song, improving efficiency to hit those high notes, and enhancing customer service to win over even the toughest crowds. But hold your horses, not all business software is ready for the big stage. Check out these features that you are going to need.



Are you open for business?

1. Know Your Ideal Client with Customer Relationship Management:

Having a [CRM integrated into your Small Business Software](#) is invaluable, because:



1. **Centralized Data:** A CRM consolidates customer data, ensuring that all information, from contact details to purchase history, is stored in one place. This makes it easier to access and manage customer interactions and ensures that every team member has a consistent view of each customer.
2. **Improved Customer Relationships:** By tracking interactions, preferences, and feedback, a CRM allows businesses to understand and anticipate the needs of their customers. This leads to more personalized service, fostering loyalty and enhancing customer satisfaction.
3. **Efficiency and Productivity:** Automating tasks like follow-ups, data entry, and lead tracking means less manual work. This allows teams to focus on more value-added activities, improving overall productivity.
4. **Sales and Revenue Growth:** With tools for lead management, sales forecasting, and opportunity tracking, a CRM can help businesses identify potential deals, prioritize leads, and streamline the sales process, leading to increased sales.
5. **Data-Driven Decisions:** CRMs often come with analytics and reporting tools. These provide insights into sales performance, customer behavior, and marketing effectiveness, enabling businesses to make informed decisions.
6. **Enhanced Communication:** A CRM ensures that every team member, whether in sales, marketing, or customer service, has access to the same information. This promotes consistent communication both internally and with customers.
7. **Cost Savings:** Over time, the efficiencies gained from using a CRM can lead to reduced operational costs. Additionally, by improving customer retention, businesses can save on the costs associated with acquiring new customers.
8. **Scalability:** As a business grows, so does its customer base. A CRM can easily scale to accommodate more customers and more complex sales processes, ensuring that businesses are always equipped to manage their expanding operations.
9. **Integration Capabilities:** Many CRMs can integrate with other tools, such as email marketing platforms, accounting software, and e-commerce systems. This ensures seamless data flow across different business functions.
10. **Enhanced Security:** CRMs often come with security features that protect customer data, ensuring compliance with data protection regulations and building trust with customers.

Incorporating a CRM into Small Business Software ensures that businesses have

the tools they need to manage customer relationships effectively, drive growth, and remain competitive in today's dynamic business environment.

2. Get found faster with a Business Website Builder:

Having a [business website builder](#) integrated into your CRM offers a multitude of advantages:



1. **Unified Platform:** Instead of juggling multiple platforms, you can manage both your customer relationships and your online presence in one place. This streamlines operations and reduces the learning curve.
2. **Data Integration:** With a website builder within your CRM, data from your website, such as lead forms or customer inquiries, can be directly integrated into the CRM. This ensures that potential leads or customer interactions from your website are immediately captured and can be acted upon.
3. **Consistent Branding:** By managing your website and customer interactions in one place, you can ensure consistent branding and messaging. Any updates or changes can be reflected both on your website and in your customer communications seamlessly.
4. **Cost-Effective:** Instead of paying for a separate website builder and CRM, integrating the two can be more cost-effective. It can also reduce the costs associated with training staff on multiple platforms.
5. **Real-time Updates:** Any changes or updates to customer data in the CRM can be reflected on the website in real-time, ensuring that the website always displays the most up-to-date information.
6. **Enhanced Personalization:** With integrated data, you can personalize the website experience for returning customers or leads, showing them content or offers tailored to their preferences or past interactions.
7. **SEO Benefits:** Some CRM-integrated website builders offer SEO tools, ensuring that while you manage customer relationships, your website remains optimized for search engines, driving more organic traffic.

In essence, integrating a website builder with your CRM not only simplifies operations but also enhances the effectiveness of both your online presence and customer relationship management.

3. Remember everything, with Task Management and Distribution:

Task Management and Distribution within a CRM software is crucial for several reasons:



1. **Streamlined Workflow:** Efficient task management ensures that every task, from following up with a lead to sending out an invoice, is organized and tracked. This reduces the chances of tasks falling through the cracks and ensures that every customer interaction is timely and relevant.
2. **Enhanced Productivity:** Distributing tasks among team members ensures that workloads are balanced. When tasks are assigned based on expertise or availability, they are more likely to be completed efficiently and effectively.
3. **Clear Accountability:** When tasks are assigned to specific individuals or teams within the CRM, there's clear accountability. Everyone knows their responsibilities, reducing ambiguities and potential conflicts.
4. **Real-time Monitoring:** With task management features, managers and team leads can monitor the progress of tasks in real-time. This allows for timely interventions if tasks are off-track and ensures that projects stay on schedule.
5. **Improved Customer Service:** By ensuring that customer-related tasks (like follow-ups or addressing queries) are managed and distributed promptly, businesses can provide better service. This leads to increased customer satisfaction and loyalty.
6. **Data-Driven Decisions:** Integrated task management within a CRM provides valuable data on team performance, task completion rates, and bottlenecks. This data can inform decisions, helping businesses optimize processes and improve efficiency.
7. **Collaboration Boost:** A CRM with task distribution capabilities fosters collaboration. Team members can easily share updates, notes, or ask for assistance, ensuring that tasks are completed collaboratively and knowledge is shared.
8. **Prioritization:** Not all tasks are of equal importance. Integrated task management allows for prioritization, ensuring that critical tasks, especially those directly impacting customers, are addressed first.
9. **Reduced Manual Efforts:** Automating task management and distribution reduces manual efforts. For instance, certain tasks can be automatically assigned to specific teams or individuals based on predefined criteria, saving time and reducing errors.
10. **Scalability:** As a business grows, the volume of tasks and the complexity of processes can increase. A CRM with robust task management and distribution capabilities can scale to accommodate this growth, ensuring that businesses remain efficient regardless of size.

Task Management and Distribution in a CRM software is not just a feature—it's a necessity. It ensures that businesses operate efficiently, team members collaborate effectively, and customers receive the best possible service.

4. Give Customers Choices with Menu Selling:

[Choice menu selling within a CRM software](#) offers a structured approach to

presenting products or services to potential customers. Here's why it's essential:



1. **Personalized Customer Experience:** Choice menu selling allows businesses to present tailored options to customers based on their preferences and needs. This personal touch enhances the customer experience, making them feel valued and understood.
2. **Streamlined Sales Process:** Instead of overwhelming customers with every available option, choice menu selling presents a curated selection, making the decision-making process more straightforward and efficient for the customer.
3. **Increased Sales Opportunities:** By presenting a menu of choices, businesses can showcase a range of products or services, increasing the chances of upselling or cross-selling. Customers might opt for a higher-priced option when they see the value it offers in comparison to other choices.
4. **Clear Communication:** Choice menus provide clarity. Customers can easily understand the differences between options, whether it's in terms of features, benefits, or pricing. This transparency builds trust and reduces the chances of misunderstandings.
5. **Data Collection and Analysis:** With choice menu selling integrated into a CRM, businesses can collect valuable data on customer preferences and choices. This data can inform future product development, marketing strategies, and sales approaches.
6. **Consistency in Sales Approach:** Choice menus ensure that every salesperson presents options in a consistent manner. This uniformity ensures that all customers receive the same quality of service and information, regardless of who they interact with.
7. **Efficient Training:** For businesses with a rotating sales team or new hires, choice menu selling provides a structured approach that's easy to teach and implement, ensuring that even new team members can hit the ground running.
8. **Enhanced Customer Engagement:** Interactive choice menus, especially digital ones, can engage customers more effectively. They can visually compare options, leading to a more informed and confident purchase decision.
9. **Reduced Decision Fatigue:** Too many choices can overwhelm customers, leading to decision paralysis. A well-structured choice menu simplifies the selection process, reducing decision fatigue and increasing the likelihood of a purchase.
10. **Feedback Loop:** Based on customer selections and feedback, businesses can continuously refine their choice menus, ensuring they remain relevant and aligned with customer needs and market trends.

In summary, choice menu selling in a CRM software is not just a sales tool—it's a strategic approach that enhances customer experience, boosts sales opportunities, and provides valuable insights into customer behavior and preferences. It ensures that businesses remain customer-centric, agile,

and competitive in a dynamic market.

5. Get Paid Faster with Invoicing and Link to Pay

[Invoicing and link-to-pay functionality within a CRM](#) software can significantly enhance a business's efficiency and customer experience. You should be able to link to [Venmo](#), [Paypal](#), [CashApp](#), [Apple Pay](#) and [Google Pay](#) and even your own bank if needed. Here's why it's crucial:



1. **Streamlined Payment Process:** Integrating invoicing and link-to-pay directly within the CRM means businesses can generate and send invoices instantly after a sale or service is completed. This reduces the time between service delivery and payment.
2. **Improved Cash Flow:** With the ease of link-to-pay, customers are more likely to make payments promptly. Faster payments lead to better cash flow, which is essential for the financial health of any business.
3. **Enhanced Customer Experience:** Customers appreciate convenience. By providing a direct link to pay, you're offering a seamless, hassle-free payment experience. This can lead to higher customer satisfaction and loyalty.
4. **Reduced Administrative Burden:** Automated invoicing and payment links mean less manual data entry and fewer errors. This not only saves time but also reduces the administrative burden on staff.
5. **Centralized Financial Data:** Having invoicing integrated with the CRM allows businesses to have a centralized view of both customer interactions and financial transactions. This holistic view can provide valuable insights for sales forecasting and financial planning.
6. **Secure Transactions:** Modern link-to-pay solutions often come with built-in security features, ensuring that customer payment information is processed securely, building trust with your clients.
7. **Automated Follow-ups:** If a payment is overdue, the CRM can automatically send reminders to customers, reducing the effort required for follow-ups and increasing the likelihood of timely payments.
8. **Customization and Branding:** Integrated invoicing often allows businesses to customize invoices with their branding, giving a professional look and feel that aligns with the company's identity.
9. **Real-time Updates:** As soon as a customer makes a payment through the link, the CRM can be updated in real-time. This ensures that sales and finance teams always have up-to-date information on payment statuses.
10. **Environmental and Cost Benefits:** Digital invoicing reduces the need for paper invoices, leading to cost savings and a reduced environmental footprint.
11. **Easy Reconciliation:** With all financial transactions linked to customer profiles in the CRM, reconciling payments becomes more straightforward, reducing discrepancies and ensuring accurate financial reporting.

In summary, integrating invoicing and link-to-pay functionality in a CRM

software is not just a matter of convenience—it's a strategic move that can lead to improved financial performance, enhanced customer relationships, and streamlined operations. It ensures that businesses can focus on growth while offering an optimal payment experience to their customers.

Those Are The Essentials

These five dazzling features – think of them as the five Horsemen of the Software Apocalypse – will have you managing customers like a charming maître d', optimizing routes like a five-star Uber driver, distributing tasks like a seasoned quarterback, and boosting sales through menu selling like a celebrity chef.

Brace yourself for not just an uptick in your operations, but a full-on renaissance. A flood of streamlined operations and a wave of growth that will make a surfer giddy. So, strap in, hold on to your hats, and let's rocket your business into the stratosphere. Over and out!

Try Free for 31 Days [Get Sellinglane CRM](#) No credit card needed to try

[10 CRM Mistakes to Avoid, Like a Boss Should](#)

written by Jude Campbell | September 1, 2024



Customer relationship management (CRM) software is a powerful tool that can help businesses of all sizes improve their sales, marketing, and customer service operations. But let's be real, CRM can be a bit of a beast to tame and full of CRM Mistakes.

“If you don’t know where you’re going, any road will take you there.”

– [Lewis Carroll](#)

That’s Why it’s Important to Avoid These Common CRM Mistakes:

1. **Not having a plan.** Before you jump into CRM especially [Selling Lane](#), take some time to think about your business goals and how CRM can help you achieve them. What specific problems are you trying to solve? What processes do you want to automate? Once you have a clear plan, you can choose the right CRM system for your needs and develop a plan for implementation.
2. **Ignoring the end users.** Your sales reps and customer service reps are the ones who will be using the CRM system on a daily basis, so it’s important to get their input on what they need and how the system should work. This will help ensure that the system is adopted and used effectively.
3. **Not training users properly.** Once you’ve implemented your CRM system, don’t just throw your team to the wolves. Provide them with adequate training, so they can learn how to use the system effectively and get the most out of it.
4. **Not entering data regularly.** CRM software is only as good as the data that’s entered into it. Make sure to enter customer data regularly and accurately. This will ensure that you have a complete and up-to-date view of your customers and their interactions with your business.
5. **Not using the system to its full potential.** Many businesses only use CRM software for basic tasks, such as contact management and lead tracking. But CRM software can be used for a variety of other tasks, such as sales pipeline management, opportunity forecasting, and customer segmentation. Take the time to learn about all the features of your CRM system and how you can use them to improve your business.
6. **Not integrating CRM with other systems.** CRM software can be integrated with other systems, such as marketing automation software and e-commerce platforms. This integration can help you automate workflows and streamline your business processes.
7. **Not reporting on CRM data.** CRM software can generate a variety of reports that can be used to track your progress and identify areas for improvement. Take the time to review your CRM reports regularly and use them to make informed decisions about your business.
8. **Not keeping data up-to-date.** As your business grows and changes, it’s important to keep your CRM data up-to-date. This includes removing outdated data and adding new data as it becomes available.
9. **Not using CRM for customer service.** CRM software can also be used to improve customer service. For example, you can use CRM to track customer support tickets and interactions. This can help you provide better customer service and resolve issues quickly and efficiently.
10. **Not measuring the ROI of CRM.** It’s important to track the return on

investment (ROI) of your CRM system. This can be done by tracking key metrics such as sales, customer satisfaction, and customer retention. By measuring the ROI of your CRM system, you can determine whether or not it's paying for itself.

“The best way to predict the future is to create it.”

– [Peter Drucker](#)

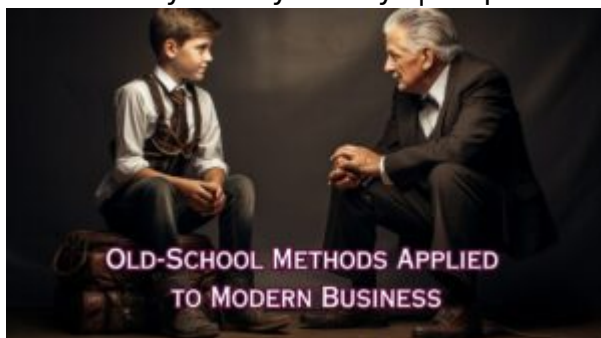
Bonus tip: Don't be afraid to experiment with your CRM system. Try different features and see what works best for your business. And don't be afraid to ask for help from your CRM vendor or other CRM users.

By avoiding these common CRM mistakes, you can set yourself up for success.

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[How Do I Apply Old School Methods to a Modern CRM?](#)

written by Vicky Barry | September 1, 2024



Applying old-school wisdom to modern technology is a incredible method of growth